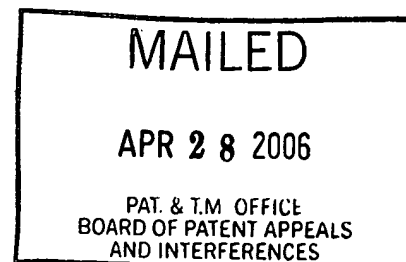


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCE

Ex parte KAZUO SHIOTA, SHUNICHI OHTSUKA, NOBUYOSHI NAKAJIMA,
NORIHISA HANEDA, SUGIO MAKISHIMA, HIROSHI TANAK
and KAZUHIKO TAKEMURA

Application 08/979,567



ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) on April 6, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below.

On April 6, 2006, appellants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). It is not clear from the record whether the examiner considered the IDS or whether the examiner notified appellants of why their submission did not meet the criteria set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Application No. 08/979,567

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the application is return to the Examiner to:

- 1) consider the Information Disclosure Statements filed April 6, 2006;
- 2) provide appropriate written notification by the examiner to appellants of such consideration;
- 3) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale M. Shaw', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DALE M. SHAW
Program and Resource Administrator
(571) 272-9797

DMS/pgc

cc: Birch Stewart Kolasch & Birch
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747